

ISSN 0953 - 8720



## **STUDY CIRCLE**

FOUNDED  
JANUARY 27th, 1954

*Founder:*

**P.T. SAUNDERS, FRSL**

*President:*

**E.V. TOEG, FRPSL**

*Vice-Presidents:*

**J.B. MARRIOTT, CVD, FRPSL, RBE**

**P. JAFFÉ, FRPSL, RBE**

**BULLETIN No. 165 JUNE 1995**

# BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE

**Affiliated to the British Philatelic Federation**

*Hon. Secretary:* **MICHAEL B. NICHOLSON**

*Hon. Treasurer:* **CRISTOPHER F. MAY**

*Hon. Membership Secretary* **S.A.SHARP**

*Hon. Editor:* **DENIS CHARLESWORTH**

*Hon. Librarian:* **DEREK M. NATHAN**

*Hon. Public Relations Officer* **PETER FORD**

*Committee:* **S. GOLDBLATT, M. HAMILTON, D. MITTON & M. WILSON**

*Hon. Auditor:* **J.A.C. FARMER, F.C.A.**  
*North American Representative:* **W. CLARY HOLT**

## OBJECTS

1. **TO promote interest in and the study of the stamps and postal history of the islands that comprise the British West Indies and in addition BERMUDA, BRITISH GUIANA (GUYANA) and BRITISH HONDURAS (BELIZE) and the Postal History and markings of all other Caribbean territories during any period that they were under British administration or control, and those British Post Offices which operated in the Caribbean, and Central or South America.**
2. TO issue a quarterly BULLETIN containing articles, items of interest and other features.
3. TO loan books from the Circle library (**home members only**). Borrowers bear postage both ways. **List supplied upon application to Hon. Librarian accompanied by an s.a.e. (9" x 6½") - 2nd Class postage for 150gm rate required.**
4. TO publicist 'wants' and furnish opinions on stamp(s) and/or cover(s) for a nominal fee.
5. TO encourage, assist or sponsor the authorship and publication of definitive handbooks, monographs or other works of reference appropriate to the aim in para 1 above.

## MEMBERSHIP&SUBSCRIPTION

**MEMBERSHIP** - Is WORLD WIDE in scope and open to all whether they be new or advanced collectors.

**SUBSCRIPTIONS** - The ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION is £7.50 for members residing in the UK or Europe and £10 for members who reside elsewhere.

**Subscriptions (dues) are payable on 1st January each year and, subject to what is mentioned below, in sterling** (by personal cheque or Standing Order drawn on a U.K. Bank, a Banker's Draft, International Money Order, Postal Order or local currency *notes* - no coins will be accepted - e.g. dollars, marks, francs etc.).

Members residing in North America (Canada, USA, and the Caribbean) who do not pay their Subscription (dues) in sterling should pay by sending to the North American Representative (see above for address) a cheque for USA \$15 made payable to "BWISC". Other overseas members who pay their subscription by cheque drawn in a foreign currency or on a foreign bank **MUST** add the equivalent of £3 sterling partially to cover exchange and bank charges. The overseas rates quoted include an element to cover postage of the Bulletin by Air Mail.

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## PROGRAMME

Sat 23 Sept 2.30 pm - 4.30 pm	BWISC Meeting at 'HAMPEX" Hayling School, Church Road, Hayling Island
Displays by	Mr R. Coasby - Bahamas and two others
Fri. 6th / Sat. 7th October 1995.	BWISC Convention - See separate leaflet
Venue:	The Regent Hotel Royal Leamington Spa.

March "STAMPEX" Details to be announced when available  
Sat 27 April AGM followed by annual Auction.  
Venue: The Bonnington Hotel, Southampton Row, London. WC 1

Note: Due to the balloting arrangements for room allocation at STAMPEx both the venue and date for the meeting in March 1996 are liable to alteration and Members MUST check their latest Bulletin for final information. Because of the Convention there is no meeting planned to take place at STAMPEx in October 1995.

*Editors note: Due to an oversight, an error was discovered in the 'In this Issue' on page 1 of the last bulletin. The item "Bermuda - U.S. Army A.P.O). 856 Cancellations" was submitted by Don Bull and not Michel Bilhaut as indicated. Apologies are sent to both for any inconvenience that might have occurred.*

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the British West Indies Study Circle was held at The Bonnington Hotel, London, on Saturday 22 April 1995 at 2.15 pm.

The meeting was opened by Mr E V Toeg, the President, who extended a warm welcome to the 25 members present. Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. N Allen, I Chard, J A C Farmer, P Jaffe, J Marriott, and D Nathan.

The minutes of the previous meeting on 23 April 1994, as published in the June 1994 Bulletin, were taken as read and, with the approval of the meeting, were signed by the President.

1. Report by the Hon.Secretary. Mr Wilson reported that this was his eighth and last report as Hon.Secretary and he believed that the Study Circle was in good shape. Thanks to the publicity received in our 40th Anniversary year the membership numbers were up, and the regular meetings of the Circle were well attended by regular enthusiasts (though he would always wish for better attendances) who were treated to some first class displays. He believed that over the years most countries covered by the Study Circle's recently enlarged terms of reference had been represented. The "Opinion" service which offered members a superb opportunity to seek advice and help at minimal cost was largely underused, only two enquiries having been made during the last year.

Finally, he reported that he would not seek re-election later in the meeting and that Messrs. Nicholson and Sharp would be sharing the duties, if elected. He hoped that members would give them the support and tolerance that he had received during his term of office. Mr Goldblatt proposed a generous vote of thanks to Mr Wilson for his services to the Study Circle. This was seconded by the President, and passed with acclamation. The President also proposed that Mr Wilson be presented with a cheque for £50 as thanks from the Study Circle for his work on their behalf. This was seconded by Mr Ford and passed without dissent.

In reply Mr Wilson thanked the meeting for their generosity.

2. Report by the Hon. Editor. Mr Charlesworth was able to report that material for the Bulletin had come in at a steady rate and he wished to thank all contributors. He reminded members that if they wanted more articles on subjects of particular interest to them the remedy was in their own hands.
3. Report by the Hon. Treasurer. Mr May reviewed the Study Circle's accounts for the last year, and apologised for the fact that they had not been prepared in time for inclusion in the March Bulletin as was customary. The accounts, together with the Hon Auditor's report would be included with the next Bulletin. It had proved difficult to reconcile the stock of publications against sales. Mr Papworth, the former Hon Treasurer who had retained responsibility for sales and stocks, had been in serious ill health since early in the year, as a result of which Mr Ford had taken over the publications.

That the year had not been as good as usual in financial terms was due to the increased expenditure for the 40th Anniversary celebrations and the need to cover the cost of production of the Dominica Handbook. Both these events were special to the year and did not affect the overall situation.

Both Mr May and Mr Farmer, the Hon Auditor, were thanked for their work in connection with the Study Circle's accounts. The President was asked to write to Mr Papworth thanking him for his time as custodian of the publications and wishing him better health in the coming year.

4. Report by the Hon. Librarian. (In his absence Mr Nathan's report was read by the Secretary.) The year ending December 1994 had been one of consolidation for the library. Lists of new additions appeared in the June and December Bulletins and there had been further additions to the scrap books. He made a plea for members to make contributions, either in original or photocopy, for these scrapbooks.

The year's total of 21 borrowings of 133 items was a decrease on the 1993 total. There had also been 12 personal callers, including two overseas members.

In conclusion the Hon Librarian pointed out to members that while a modicum of simple research may be undertaken at the Librarian's discretion, all letters requiring a reply other than borrowed books should be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope.

5. Report by the Hon. PRO. Mr Ford reported that during the year the new Dominica Handbook, written by Mr Toeg, had been published. At present sales had covered much of the cost, though another 35-40 copies needed to be sold before break-even point was reached.

For the future, he said that plans were being made to produce a book covering all aspects of Jamaican philately, with perhaps the first of several parts being published in April 1997. He stated that he also hoped to reprint some of the original BWISC Study Papers in a new and improved form.

He stated that he had been looking at ways to reduce the number of copies of past issues of the Bulletin, at present over 6,000. A notice would be appearing in a future Bulletin offering back copies at a much reduced price.

Finally, he thanked the various authors who had contributed articles published in Gibbons Stamp Monthly in connection with the 40th Anniversary programme.

6. Report by the Chairman of the Committee. Mr Toeg reported on the absence of the accounts from the March Bulletin, the resignation of the Hon Secretary and the nominations for his successor, and the publication of the Dominica handbook. He also referred to the storage problems with the large number of back copies of the Bulletin held by the Hon PRO and their proposed disposal at a reduced price.

He stated that it had been agreed to hold another Convention in Leamington in October this year.

7. Election of new Hon General Secretary & Hon Membership Secretary. The President reported that Mr Wilson was not standing for re-election as Hon Secretary and he proposed that Mr M B Nicholson be elected as Hon General Secretary and Mr S A Sharp as Hon Membership Secretary; the former dealing with all matters except those pertaining to the membership. The motion was seconded by Mr D Mitton and passed unanimously.
8. Election of the Officers and Committee. The President said that there were no other candidates and that the Vice-Presidents, Hon Treasurer, Editor, Librarian and PRO along with Messrs Goldblatt, Hamilton, and Mitton were all considered to be re-elected en bloc.

Mr I Chard had decided not to stand for re-election to the Committee and it was proposed by Mr Nicholson and seconded by Mr Sharp that Mr M R Wilson be elected in his place. This was agreed unanimously.

9. Election of the Hon.Auditor. Mr J A C Farmer was willing to continue to serve and was unanimously re-elected. Mr May said that he wished to thank Mr Farmer for his hard work on behalf of the Study Circle.
10. Programme of Events for 1995/6. The Secretary outlined the proposed programme for the coming 12 months, given in detail at the front of this Bulletin. The first meeting was to be on 23 September at Hayling Island, an out-of-London event to benefit those living in the South and South West. A similar event in 1994 had proved very popular. The Circle's use of a room at STAMPEX was dependent on the outcome of a ballot which did not give much notice and members wishing to attend MUST look for information in the latest Bulletin.
11. Biennial BWI Convention. The President gave details of the Convention to be held in Leamington Spa at the beginning of October. This information would be included in a leaflet with the next Bulletin together with a booking form to be completed and returned to the Hon General Secretary.
12. There being no other business the President thanked the members present for their support and declared the meeting closed.

## **MEMBERSHIP LISTING**

### **NEW MEMBERS**

Cordes, C.  
Dickinson, T.

Harper-Scott, S.  
Jakes, I.  
Rawlings, M.

### **ADDRESS CHANGES**

Kilburn, W.G.

## AUCTION REPORT 1995 - Auction No.23

Some members see the annual auction as the highlight of the BWISC calendar. When the Committee finished its discussions this year, and the doors of the Margaret Room at the Bonnington Hotel were opened, there was an eager throng waiting to view. We were promised and we experienced one of our liveliest auctions.

There has been disappointment for a few; because we know through the Post Office that a number of Catalogues and Bulletins fell out of envelopes addressed to members overseas. We had no means of tracing the unlucky ones, except the three who got in touch. For future years: your catalogue is meant to arrive by the middle of March. If you don't get one, don't hesitate to ask why.

In one respect, the auction was ill-timed. In the same week the splendid Grenada collection built up by our Dublin member, Bob Towers, was sold in London together with the final parts of a Dominica collection formed by another member. It was small wonder that only 7 of our lots between 161 and 200 were sold, and that this was the flattest part of the sale.

Prominent amongst these 7 was lot 171, an example of the first-type Grenada 'G' on a most unexpected stamp. This fetched £56 against an estimate of £30, and was captured or, we should say recaptured, in a last-minute telephone bid to the auction room. We haven't yet begun to invite telephone bids during the sale, as some auctioneers do. Maybe we should introduce this as an extra service to members!

The promised excitement erupted early. C51 on Antigua 6d. (lot 3) was fiercely contested, and went for £52, while the English Harbour c.d.s. produced a battle royal: it opened at a modest £40, the "book" was beaten at £60, then room bidders carried the figure up to £110. This was the first of nine lots to reach three figures in a sale that totalled nearly £6,700.

Another Antigua postmark lot to start a battle was lot 16, with the rare sighting of good village marks on 1937 Coronation issues; with no opposition from postal bidders, the price rose to £39. It takes more than 20 rounds of bidding to reach that point from the starting level. Bahamas was fairly quiet until lot 35 (the Lovely Bay TRD) shot rapidly to £30 against a valuation of £12. Barbados, as usual, sold pretty well, although one or two familiar faces were absent; and perhaps this is why lot 55 which, as described in the catalogue, sounds like a pig in a poke, didn't find a buyer in the room. It actually included the Jubilee 8d. on blued paper, used, and is likely to be snapped up from our list of unsold lots.

This is a list that you may or may not receive, for it is given a limited circulation amongst members who take an active interest in the auction. If you don't get one, but want one, write to Simon Goldblatt and ask.



Our faces are a little red from the number of corrections to catalogue announced at the beginning of the sale. All the same we like to get both our descriptions and our valuations right, and we want to be told when we go wrong. For the corrections to the censorship attributions amongst lots 380 to 393 (several of the covers were censored outside Trinidad in Jamaica or Bermuda or perhaps even Antigua) we owe particular thanks and acknowledgements to Ron Wike.

Lot 81 (Bermuda ¼d part sheet) did well at £42, after opening at £20 against estimate of £14; then lot 82 (Pembroke West) rather surprisingly went to the first and only bidder at £19 - but here the auctioneer was heard to be muttering about his hands being tied, and it seemed as though the lot could easily have taken off.

In British Guiana an attractive unused 1862 1 ct. with a good pedigree bustled to £65 (lot 100, est. £40) and most of what followed sold quite comfortably, with classy strikes of Naamryck, T.P.O. North West Str., and Postal Agency no.9 all doing well.

The next highlight was Dominica's manuscript Rosalie (lot 152) which would show its class in any company at any auction. Bidding started at £100 and ended at £180 "still on the book". (The auctioneer's book is a closely guarded secret; except when bidding starts with "two - or more - even bids of ..." room bidders never get a hint of how much the auctioneer has in hand). The book fought hard for lot 159 (S.S. Ormes cover) also, but here was out-pointed at £44 - est. £24.

Coming out of the doldrums to reach Leeward Islands, it was another postmark that woke us up. This was the Old Road TRO, modestly valued at £30. It opened at £24 and the book slogged it out with buyer B4, who captured it in the room at £85. This took 32 rounds of bidding.

In Montserrat, two costly stamps (lots 242 and 243) both found a buyer at close to estimate, then the sale ran smoothly on towards St. Vincent, where we all sensed something was brewing. St. Vincent collectors - amongst whom the Circle can field a formidable line-up - have a special understanding of our hobby. And so to lot 309, 1d. drab strip of three. It turned out that certain of our top enthusiasts had pairs and strips of four between them, but never a strip of three. Starting at £8, the sale price climbed and climbed. The lot was knocked down at £48 - after 47 rounds of bidding! The auctioneer then commented that he had thought of bidding £8 himself. It was almost, but not quite, an anticlimax when the Revenue stamps that figured in lots 312 and 313 merely trebled or about doubled their estimates.

In another calmer spell, lot 351 of Tobago (½d. on 6d. vertical pair) was appreciated at £110. So was lot 354 of Trinidad at £42. This shows that classic single stamps will sell, when the quality and the price is right.

Thus we came to our Miscellaneous Section, which has never sold well before.

The catalogue's front cover suggested that things would be different this time round. They were. The book declared its interest at £46, while bidding cards waved in the room. The dust of battle didn't settle until giddy £160 had been reached (est. £60). In retrospect this took a mere 24 rounds of bidding, but it seemed much more at the time. The prize - need we say it? - was carried off by a St. Vincent collector.

The last 75 lots were sale catalogues or other literature. Demand was healthy, prices variable: as with stamps it's easier to buy what you can inspect, than to appraise from the descriptions that you read.

In one case a whisper went round the room; "It's far too much; you can buy it from the auctioneers for less". And no doubt you can. In the heat of an auction, who cares?

This was only the second time in our history that we have sold more items in the room than on the book. 299 lots were knocked down. Room buyers won by 150 captures to 149!

While previous sales have twice realised more, the total value of estimates was lower this year, because of a larger number of lower-priced lots. Hence it was a very creditable result, to which about a third of our members contributed in one way or another.

Realisations were as follows (unsold lots are omitted):-

Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£
1	6	3	52	4	22	5	13.50	6	6
8	110	9	30	10	6	11	8.50	12	44
13	24	14	9	15	15	16	39	19	7.50
22	21	25	31	27	65	28	8	29	9
30	15	31	3.50	32	3	33	8	35	30
41	31	42	36	43	14.50	44	33	45	15.50
46	140	47	29	48	46	49	10.50	50	7
51	6	52	20	53	14	54	110	59	16
60	34	61	26	62	33	63	11	67	52
69	5.50	70	6	72	23	74	3.75	75	6
76	16	80	12	81	42	82	19	83	28
84	10	89	18	95	80	97	70	98	12
100	65	102	19	104	44	105	105	106	52
107	20	108	26	109	65	110	3.75	111	27
112	7	113	18	114	23	115	23	117	27
119	32	120	10.50	121	12	122	2.50	123	52
125	8	126	4.50	127	14	130	13	133	12.50
134	60	136	90	137	11	138	5	139	75
140	13.50	143	18	147	7.50	149	28	152	180

Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£
153	15	154	13	155	9	157	6	158	34
159	44	160	14	171	56	173	20	174	24
179	9	180	8.50	189	4.50	196	10.50	201	26
202	13.50	203	15	204	3.50	205	22	206	9.50
207	52	208	6.50	209	11	212	4.75	213	8
216	16	218	10	219	30	221	6	222	8.50
223	9.50	224	23	226	4.50	227	25	228	56
229	44	230	21	231	42	234	6	235	85
236	6	237	30	239	11	240	7.50	241	15.50
242	170	243	105	244	26	248	26	250	31
252	9	253	7.50	255	44	256	23	257	33
259	21 *	260	10.50	262	24	263	27	267	3.75
268	5.50	269	7.50	270	4.75	271	11	272	6
273	3.25	278	7.50	279	6	282	14	283	44
284	7.50	285	6.50	286	22	287	21	292	15
293	52	294	26	295	15	296	3	301	26
302	7.50	304	36	306	36	307	21	309	48
312	26	313	37	314	11	316	7	317	42
318	22	321	38	322	6	327	3	330	6 *
331	27	332	26	335	12	336	4.50	338	24
339	44	341	12	342	14	343	10.50	344	6
345	16	347	26	350	11	351	110	354	42
355	16	356	80	357	9	359	31	361	14
362	14	363	12	364	17	367	4.50	368	19
371	35	373	25	374	1.50	376	27	378	21
379	34	380	35	382	8.50	385	26	386	21
389	20	391	11	393	70	398	7	399	42
400	8	401	3	402	12	404	10	407	52
411	17.50	413	21	414	160	415	3	416	15
417	30	418	11	419	12.50	421	12	423	22
424	16	425	8.50	426	8.50	427	16.50	429	11
430	12	433	9	436	5.50	438	5.25	441	8.50
442	3	443	11	444	4	445	2.50	446	6.50
448	2.50	450	6.50	452	6	453	7	454	6
455	4.25	459	3.75	460	7.50	461	4	462	4
464	3.50	465	7	466	7*	467	1.50	468	2.50
469	6	470	5.25	471	11	474	3.75	477	4
478	4	480	3.75	481	4.25	482	3.25	483	4.75
485	8.50*	486	4	488	2.75	489	1.50	490	4
491	5.25	492	3.75	494	3	495	4.50	496	10.50
497	36	498	7.50	499	3	500	52 *		

Note:\* Catalogue description amended in the auction room.

# THE BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE

## Income and Expenditure Statements for the year ended 31 December 1994

<u>1993</u>	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>1994</u>
£		£.p
1809	Subscriptions	2171.95
147	Publications - net surplus less postages	946.79
746	Auction and Miscellaneous donations	1216.01
5	Opinion Fees	4.50
34	Convention (net surplus)	-
<u>398</u>	Interest received, less tax reserve	<u>299.87</u>
<u>£ 3139</u>	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<u>£4639.12</u>
	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
1004	Bulletins : costs less advertising	1328.50
730	: distribution & editorial costs	<u>734.47</u>
52	Library : acquisitions	52.86
54	: insurance	60.00
254	: Librarian's expenses less recoveries	<u>44.50</u>
207	Meeting room hire less collections	165.75
-	ABPF - Affiliation Fee	120.00
246	Officers' Administration: stationery, postages, telephone, photocopying etc., less recoveries	198.58
-	40th Anniversary Exhibitions (net expenditure)	588.66
-	'Dominica' Book Promotion	911.19
<u>102</u>	Miscellaneous	<u>56.09</u>
<u>£2649</u>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<u>£4260.60</u>
<u>490</u>	<b>SURPLUS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE for the year</b>	<u>378.52</u>
<u>£3139</u>		<u>£4639.12</u>
	<b><u>BALANCE SHEET as at 31 DECEMBER 1994</u></b>	
	<b><u>ACCUMULATED FUND</u></b>	
11257	Balance at 1.1.1994	11747.41
490	Add Surplus for the year	378.52
<u>176</u>	Dollar conversion reserve	<u>251.91</u>
11923		12377.84
<u>(3359)</u>	Less Stocks of Publications at cost	<u>(5970.25)</u>
<u>£ 8564</u>		<u>£6407.59</u>
	<b><u>REPRESENTED BY:</u></b>	
10327	Cash at banks, building society	8608.94
<u>252</u>	Sundry Debtors	<u>523.35</u>
10579		9132.29
( 13)	Less Sundry Creditors	-
( 134)	Taxation Reserve	134.30
<u>(1868)</u>	Subscriptions received in advance	<u>2590.40</u>
<u>£8564</u>		<u>£6407.59</u>

### AUDITORS REPORT

I hereby certify that the Income and Expenditure Statements for the year ended 31 December 1994 are in accordance with the books, vouchers and explanations given to me; and that the Balance Sheet shows the financial state of the British West Indies Study Circle at that date, save that the Stocks of Publications, whilst valued at cost as consistent with previous accounts, may not have a market value of the sum stated on that date and in the Balance Sheet have been treated as having a nil value.

For a period the Study Circle adopted a subscription policy that by paying for five years in advance the sixth year was given free; and it is therefore under an obligation to provide a service to those members, the cost of which liability cannot be quantified accurately but at current subscription rates is £622: similarly subscriptions have been received in advance at previous subscription rates where the liability at current rates would be £596. There are five honorary life members.

In all other respects the finances of the Study Circle appear to be sound.

J.A.C. Farmer, FCA, FRPSL 31<sup>st</sup> March 1995.

## STAMPEX DISPLAYS

On Sunday 5th March 19 members and one visitor gathered at Spring Stampex to view two displays put on by members Harry Parsons and Michael Wilson.

The first display was given by Harry Parsons who showed items from his collection relating to the Royal Mail steam Packet Company during the period 1842 up to 1900 in the Caribbean, the Spanish Main and the Gulf of Mexico.

Items shown included maps showing the changing pattern of routes as well as covers indicating rates of postage, routes taken and the names of ships or ship which had carried the cover. A variety of covers were displayed to or from the numerous countries served by the Company both as a result of the port of call or by a transfer eg. West Coast of America or New Zealand etc.

After this display Mike Spaven thanked Harry for a most enjoyable interesting and informative display. Those present endorsed these sentiments.

The second display was given by Michael Wilson who showed part of his collection of Turks and Caicos Islands from the early part of the nineteenth century until the first combined issue for the islands in 1900.

The display opened with a selection of four pre-stamp covers: the first being a letter dated October 1815 from Salt Cay to Newbury Port in the USA, the charge of 26c on arrival reflecting the 50% increase effective from 1 February 1815 to 31 March 1816 to help defray the cost of the war against Britain, and with a nice arrival semicircular handstamp of Beverly M.S. dated 5 November. The second was to Bermuda, again from Salt Cay, dated 1833 was without any postal markings other than "5d" added on arrival in Bermuda. A letter from Turks Island in 1835 to Portsmouth in New Hampshire and with a New York ship letter transit mark with the unusual fee of 20¾ cents has been the subject of an earlier article in the Bulletin (issue No.138, Sept. 1988). A fourth cover dated June 1842 was addressed to the Wesleyan Mission in London and carried the manuscript "Turks Isllds" and was charged at the rate of 1/- on arrival. This was only shortly before the islands ceased being a port of call by the Royal Mail Co in its West Indies network.

A number of sheets showed the first issues of stamps for the Colony produced by Perkins Bacon with design proposals with ideas using both St Vincent and GB stamps, plate proofs, forgeries and the issued set both watermarked and with the small star watermark together with an example of the paper used. A fine cover to London dated 1873 with the 1/- blue completed this section.

The 1881 overprints were shown only as a sample of each value, the large number of types and settings of overprints being only mentioned. The display continued with examples of the various issues by De La Rue using the original Perkins Bacon plates supplemented with some value of their own Key Plate design. Two examples from De La Rue's own ink recipe book for stamps of 1882 started this section which also included a complete sheet of the 1d value showing the unusual 30 stamp format. Of note was a pair of bisect 1d orange of 1882 tied on a small piece, and a part sheet of the ½d green issued in 1890 from the right hand pane of Plate 2 and showing the "Thompson Flaw" on stamp 3 of line 3. Overprints of this period were the "One Penny" of 1889 shown in multiples and on cover and the various settings of the ½d of 1893 also as singles and on cover. There was a fine example of the 2½d rate to the USA per S.S Saginaw with the rate made up of a ½d overprint of 1893 and a bisected 4d grey of 1882.

Key Plate issues shown included the 2½d blue of 1893 in an interpanneau block of eight and large blocks of the ½d, 4d and 5d of 1894, also showing the inter-panneau gutters. Several covers of this period showed the change in postal rates and the different routes taken by the mail at this time.

Postal stationery of this period was included in the display with many used and mint examples together with the "Specimen" overprints. A piece of Government House notepaper showed the various postal markings in use in January 1893.

The first combined issue for the two parts of the Colony in 1900 completed the display. The stamps were shown both mint and used together with "Specimen" overprints and some colour trials. The well known watermark varieties of this issue with parts of the Crown Agents

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imprint or no watermark at all were covered in detail. The late format design of the same issue for the 2/- and 3/- value were also included as were master die proofs for these two values dated 27 February 1900. The 1905 reprints on different watermark paper were then shown together with the ½ value used with a Bermuda Paquebot marking, and the 1d with a Ship Letter Avonmouth cancellation.

The display concluded with a number of covers showing incoming mail from England, the USA and Brazil.

In proposing a Vote of Thanks Vincent Duggleby pointed out the many similarities between the stamps shown and those of St Vincent. Members agreed and showed their appreciation in the usual manner.

## DOMINICA BOOK REVIEW

As someone who was involved with the production of the recent Dominica book, I would like to answer some of the criticisms made by David Beech in his review in the March 1995 issue of the *Bulletin*.

The quality of the illustrations reflects many aspects i.e. the original quality, in some cases photocopies - even a photograph of photocopies in one case; the matt paper, etc. As with all aspects of life, the quality also reflects the cost. To have produced photographic reproduction would have entailed a much higher cost. The tone of the comment would lead someone who had not seen the book to think that the pictures are virtually unrecognisable, this is patently not the case.

Who says contents pages should follow the reverse of the title page? While it may well be that some do, at least some authorities would suggest otherwise, including James Negus' *Philatelic Literature*. No less an authority than *Hart's Rules for Compositors and Readers at the University Press Oxford* has its contents after the preface. No doubt there are others both pro and against.

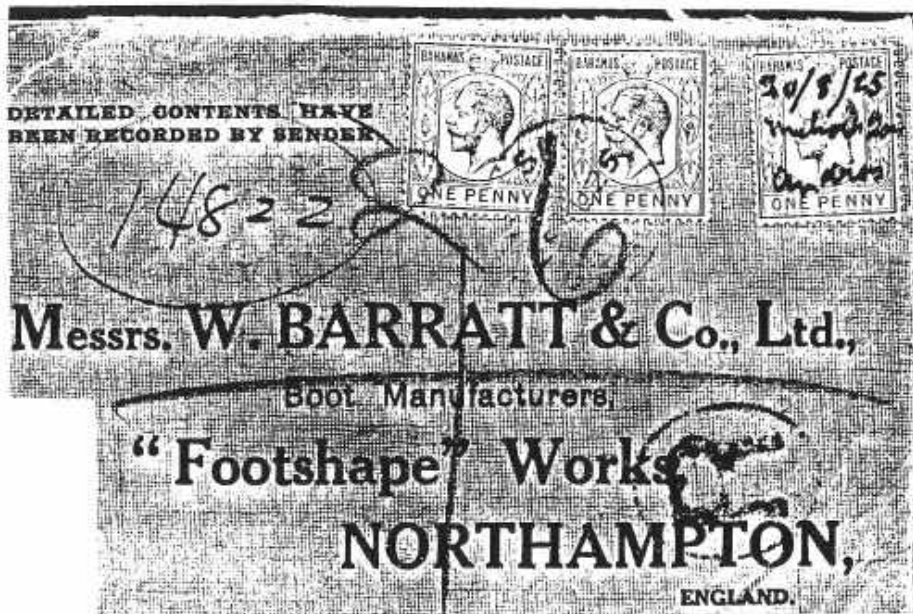
David Alford

## DISCOUNT FOR MEMBERS

We have been notified by The Cambridge Stamp Centre Ltd. that members of the Study Circle are offered the opportunity to purchase their accessories at 10% discount. (This does not apply during sales periods and also excludes stamps and magazines). Anyone interested should contact them direct at 9 Sussex Street, Cambridge CB1 1PA or by phone on (01223) 63980.

# BAHAMAS

I have recently obtained two covers from the Bahamas to England.



The first cover (above) is a registered envelope to Northampton with 3x1d (SG.116) stamps attached. One stamp has 20/8/25 / Nicholls Town / Andros handwritten on the stamp. The 'n' of Town just runs off the stamp to tie it to the cover. The other two stamps are cancelled with the cds of Nassau dated 21 AU 25. I feel that the register mark 'R' in oval was applied in Nassau and that the 2 x 1d stamps (cancelled in Nassau) were also added in Nassau to cover registration.



The other cover has had one stamp removed from the top right hand corner. By the date, this would have been a 2d. stamp. The stamp in the top left hand corner of this cover, written in the same hand as the above cover, has 29/5/25 / Nicholls Town / Andros handwritten on - the stamp. The 'n' of Town just runs off the stamp to tie it to the cover. The removed stamp was cancelled at Nassau.

I should like members comments regarding the following:

1. Why did only one stamp have the manuscript inscription?
2. Was/were the other stamps added in Nassau to cover registration?
3. Did Nicholls Town - Andros have / not have registration facilities?

Doug Nottingham

## **GRENADA**

In the BWISC Bulletin No.164 (March 1995) there is an item on Grenada KGVI. Although I do not collect Grenada I recently met up with Richard Lockyer, the Secretary of the KGVI Society, and showed him the article. The sail scratch was not a variety he had heard about but we had a look through his collection of Grenada and came up with some more information.

Richard found the full variety at R1/1 on the 1d., 2d. and 3d. all perf.12½. He also found the partial retouch variety on the 1/- perf. 12½.

In searching for this variety he also found similar but different small scratches in the same area, but not on R1/1, on the 2d. and 3d. perf.12½.

As Richard's material was all mint he was unable to answer the questions at the end of the article. However, he was able to add a few other varieties on this issue:

1½d. perf. 12½.

Scratch on the bridge of KGVI's nose.

1½d. both perfs

A thin vertical scratch from the bottom of the vignette between D and E of GRAND ETANG.

5/- perf. 13½ x 12½.

A small vertical flaw to the right of the rear mast, approximately mid rear sail.

Hugh James

**MATERIAL URGENTLY REQUIRED FOR THE SEPTEMBER AND ALL FUTURE ISSUES**

## GRENADA

In Bulletin 161 (June 1994) Michael Medlicott illustrated a pair of British Guiana SG.289 showing a large triangular unprinted patch, obviously caused by a loose piece of paper during printing, and asked whether any member could report a similar flaw on a Waterlow recess issue. By coincidence, the Sothebys auction catalogue for 16th December 1994 illustrates a very similar flaw on a Grenada GVI 1½d strip. The loose piece of paper bearing the missing print was also included.

Charles Freeland

## JAMAICA

Included in a lot of various Obliterators that I acquired recently is the “E” on QV 2d Crown CA (Watermark confirmed by using a Signoscope).



This is not listed by L.C.C. Nicholson who states “The letter “E” is only known on CC stamps and is not at all common” and is also supported by R.A. Gibson's listing in Everard Aguilar's Philatelic Handbook of Jamaica Vol.2 Section 2.

Can anyone throw further light on this matter?

Mike Wilton-Steer

## MONTSERRAT

I have the French Red Cross 1d. + 1d. issued in Montserrat and can find no reference to it in either Britner, Robson Lowe or various notes that I have collected. Can anyone help?

Additionally I have a number of forgeries as per the following illustrations. The first 3 are quite crude forgeries - perf 12 on unwatermarked paper.



The next copy is the Crown CC 1d. The stamp, I am quite sure, is genuine but the overprint of Montserrat is very crude and bears no resemblance to the genuine overprint.

Any information on these items would be most welcome.

Mike Smith

## ST. VINCENT

Because of its rarity, it may be of interest to note the discovery of another strike of the SHIP-LETTERS / ST. VINCENT CDS.

PML record two examples; the C. Angus Parker find in 1964 on a G.B. postal card (dated 10 October 1905), and Simon Goldblatt's find on a St. Vincent Edward VII 3d (dated 31 January 1906).

I suspect one or two other examples have surfaced in the intervening twenty-five years, but I have no record of them. My find was in an old general collection, and cancels an Edward VII MCA 1d on FE 15 5.

Recorded usage is still in a narrow time band (less than a year in the case of the three examples above), although the handstamp was proofed JU 1 94.

Michael Medlicott

*EDITORS Note: The next article (Brief notes on certain aspects of the Postal History of Trinidad - F Borromeo) is reprinted from Gibbons Stamp Monthly and is the third of the 40th Anniversary articles that we are reprinting for members who do not take that magazine.*  
*This article has been amended and full reference notes have been added.*

## **BRIEF NOTES ON CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE POSTAL HISTORY OF TRINIDAD - F. BORROMEIO**

I would like to begin these brief notes by expressing the hope that, thirty years after its first appearance, Marriott's magisterial work <sup>1</sup> go into another edition, up-dated, and enlarged to include more recent issues, to 1909 at least. A new edition, handsomely redesigned, could become a magnificent book such as, for example, Pierce and Messenger celebrated work on St Vincent. All that has been published since then have been a mere handful of - praiseworthy - articles, with the result that Marriott remains the basic and irreplaceable tool for those interested in the intriguing and varied postal history of Trinidad <sup>2</sup>.

That said, I believe it might nevertheless be helpful to illustrate some of its aspects and point to others neglected by Marriott.

Trinidad was first visited by Columbus during his third voyage in 1498. The first attempt at colonisation was made by the Spanish in 1532 when they appointed Don Antonio Sedeño as governor. Around 1580 the settlement of St José de Oruña was founded, on the site of the present town of St Joseph, which was later destroyed by Sir Walter Raleigh in 1595. The island was then practically abandoned, like the majority of the Caribbean islands, since they had ceased to be of economic interest. In 1783 the Spanish authorities began to encourage immigration and from the mere 300 souls present in that year, the population rose to 18,000 by 1797. A good number of settlers of French origin also transferred there from Martinique. As a result of the Napoleonic wars the island was occupied by the English and their possession was ratified by the Treaty of Amiens in 1802. In 1838 slavery was abolished and, to avoid a lack of manpower, labourers were brought over from India, mostly Tamil, and Chinese also, whose descendants still make the island extremely interesting from an ethnic point of view.

One can infer from this information that postal traffic was practically non-existent up to the end of the eighteenth century and scarce at the beginning of the next. In the

### **References**

- 1 J. B. Marriott, *The Philatelic History of Trinidad to 1862*, The British West Indies Study circle, Paper no. 3, no place of Publication, 1963.
- 2 Marriott, *op cit.* p. 4, states that 'Trinidad, from the collector's point of view, is a large and fascinating subject'. And again: "There is virtually nothing of a philatelic nature that is not represented". He then sketches an outline of the more interesting arguments.



following decades, however, the service was in continuous development, the large increase coming with the setting up of the Post and the introduction of the postage stamp. That there were businessmen and public officials on the island aware of the novelty in the postal field is shown by the fact that only seven years after the introduction of the postage stamp in England (1840) a private individual had one printed on this very remote island. In that same year of 1847 the local authorities also set about applying to obtain an official postal service.

This island, of no great importance in the global context of British possessions, produced a whole series of philatelic items of remarkable interest, from the legendary “Lady McLeod” of 1847, to the locally printed lithograph stamps, the nearly one hundred stamps bearing the image of “Britannia”, with all their variety of colour, perforations and watermarks, the numeral cancellations, and the postage stamps “used abroad” in Ciudad Bolivar in Venezuela. To these should be added the covers franked with Trinidadian stamps and carried by French packets, those sent on by forwarders on the island and those stamped “Too late”, to mention a few of the interesting features.

When one looks at all closely at the postal history of the island one sees that the pre-adhesive period is badly documented <sup>3</sup>.

During the 1840s a two-line linear handstamp with the words “TRINIDAD-SHIP LETTER” <sup>4</sup> was sent out to the island from England. These handstamps, also known to have been used in the Antilles, in Jamaica, in Barbados and in the Bahamas etc., were to be impressed on letters arriving at the post office by way of non-official carriers, private ships or those flying foreign flags <sup>5</sup>. This kind of letter had been regulated in England from 1657. By 1760 the first handstamps had begun to appear and became very numerous during the period up to 1840. Numerous related laws were also brought in, mostly aimed at settling the discord between private citizens, the English Post and sea captains relative to taxes, tariffs and percentages <sup>6</sup>.

## References

- 3 For the period 1803 to 1851 only five different marks are known for types and sub-types.
- 4 Marriott *op. cit.*, p. 9. Exceedingly rare in that only two impressions are known, one at 1848 on a letter coming from New Haven, offered for private treaty by Robson Lowe in the 1938/39 season (considered unique at the time) and one of 1863. This stamp was replaced at an undetermined moment by another that lacked the island's name and which is known only for the period 1871-1874. This mark was registered at the London General Post Office in Proof Book 5 with the following note: “Sent to Secretary 27 Aug. 1841”.
- 5 In his *Philatelic terms illustrated*, London 1970, R. Bennett describes the term as : “Name given to a letter which has been brought in from some comparatively inaccessible spot by sea to a part of entry in a country having a regular postal service”. Generally marked ‘Ship Letter’. ‘Loose Ship Letter’ or ‘Posted at Sea’ and the name of the port of arrival, to facilitate charging the fee payable for the service, in addition to the ordinary postage’.
- 6 A. Robertson, *A history of the Ship, letter's of the British Isles*, Bournemouth 1955, pp. A.1 following.



Fig.1 Trinidad Ship Letter cover sent from Martinique and forwarded to Venezuela

The use of the “TRINIDAD-SHIP LETTER” handstamp continued into the philatelic era. I would like here to present a cover I believe interesting for various reasons (fig. 1). Sent from St Pierre in Martinique on 3 November 1863, stamped at Fort de France on the 4th, it reached Trinidad on the 6th. It was then forwarded to Carupano in Venezuela, but the date of forwarding is not known, while the date of arrival must have been the 11th according to a written note on the inside. The cover bears the rare handstamp though the impression is barely legible, perhaps because of saltuary use and the lack of concern with which it was tended. It also bears blue and black pencil marks relating to local postage, difficult to interpret <sup>7</sup>, as is the small “PF” (Payé frontière) mark which is altogether unusual <sup>8</sup>. The same cover also has 10c. and 40c. stamps from the ‘General’ French colonial series, which seems to have been normal, typical of covers carried from the Antilles by English ships <sup>9</sup>. And if the letters points of dispatch and destination,

## References

- 7 They are probably charge marks set down on arrival; the same blue used for the charge marks that appear on letters sent from Ciudad Bolivar to Trinidad.
- 8 None of the letters illustrated in the Schatzkes and Roberts sales has this mark. It is not illustrated or described in Salles, nor even in the book on Guadeloupe by Dubus, Pannetier and Marchand. This stamp is reproduced in the chapter dedicated to the Marques Annexes in the *Catalogue Spécialisé des Timbres de France, tome 1(1848-1900)*, Paris 1975; it is described in the group of Port-Paye stamps for the letters mailed abroad. Only Robert Stone mentions it in *French Colonies, The General Issues*, New York 1961, p. 23, but only as an occasional cancellation stamp.
- 9 L Dubus, P. Pannetier, A. Marchand, *Las Correspondances des Colonies Françaises La Guadeloupe*, Paris 1958, p. 178. Here, however, we have a letter initially despatched by the French boat “Le Cacique”, and then sent on by a carrier presumably English.

Martinique and Venezuela, are altogether unusual, the route chosen is more understandable, given the close postal links between Trinidad and the neighbouring country.

This cover also prompts me to make a brief digression on an aspect of Trinidad postal history little considered by the English historians.

As a result of the French military expedition against Mexico in January 1862, a new agreement was signed the following month with the Compagnie Générale Transatlantique for the setting up of a new main postal line for the Antilles. Later, at the beginning of March 1863, a new provisional “associated line” (*Ligne annexe*) was opened to link Guadeloupe four times a month with Martinique and continue on from there to the English islands of St Lucia, St Vincent, Grenada and Trinidad. The steamer “Le Cacique” (see also fig. 1) was commissioned, replaced shortly afterwards, in December 1864, by “Le Caribe”. At the top left our cover bears the indication “*p. Cacique Voie de la Trinidad*”, which shows it was carried on the former. The route did not last long since in August 1865 the “associated line C” for Cayenne opened. That year the boat left Fort de France on the 23rd, put in at St Lucia and St Vincent on the same day, Grenada on the 24th, Trinidad on the 24th or 25th, reaching Cayenne on the 29th. The return trip began on the 3rd and put in at Trinidad on the 7th. In 1874 (22 October) the Grenada and St Vincent halts were suppressed and arrival day in Trinidad became the 24th and the 6th or 7th of each month.

The French postal service was on a much smaller scale than that carried out by English vessels. Letters coming from St Lucia are rather rare, those from Trinidad a little more common, while no cover has yet come to light that was carried by French steamers from the other two islands. The covers had to bear Trinidad postal stamps already cancelled with date-stamp, while the front was impressed with an octagonal marking “Trinite - paq. FR. C N°1” in red or black <sup>10</sup>.

Now let us come to the first Trinidad stamp, the by now legendary “Lady McLeod”, so well known to those present that any further detail would be superfluous <sup>11</sup>. Despite that, it is perhaps worth recalling that the “Lady McLeod” was not an official stamp and that, though not rare, it has become very much sought after and hence

## References

10 R. Salles, *La poste maritime française*, tome IV pp.27 and 158.

11 Apart from the bibliography in Marriott 1963 p. 65 and that in Kellow 1992 (from which some titles are given here with details) see also N. Lacy Stocken, *Stamps of Great Price, The Blue Book of Philately*, Bath 1832, pp. 94-95; L. and M. Williams, *Famous Stamps*, London 1940 (referred to by G. Kellow 1992 as *Stamps of Fame*). London 1946 (revised edition) pp. 178-183; id., *Stamps of Fame*, London 1949, pp. 169-199 (the two texts are practically identical, varying only in the pricing of the stamps); Marriott omits page numbers, as he does for the other works cited; S. Ringstrom - H. Tester. *The Private Ship Letter Stamps of the World, Part 1, The Caribbean*, no place of publication (but Trelborg), undated (but 1979), pp. 10-11.

very expensive. Recently C. Kellow<sup>12</sup> published a catalogue of it listing 16 unused items, 20 used and 29 on covers. The figures themselves reveal one of the oddities about this stamp: the fact that, contrary to the usual case with classic issues, many examples are still attached to their covers. The explanation lies in the curious fact that J.G. Taylor, one of the addressees of numerous covers<sup>13</sup>, himself became a stamp collector and preserved them, preventing the inevitable dispersion. Among the Taylor group is the famous cover of 28 April 1847<sup>14</sup> which bears the earliest known date (Fig.2). This is not only the earliest date-stamped document from the English colonies (and a *fortiori* from Trinidad), it is also the first (with a stamp) in the world relating to post "By sea". This letter enables us, as we shall see, to formulate some hypotheses about features of the postage stamp which have still not been clarified since we lack the documentation that would reveal details of typographical composition and the name of the printer.

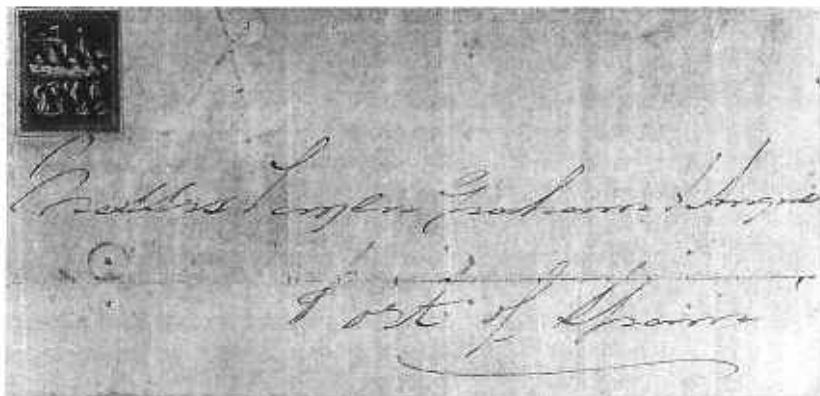


Fig.2 Lady McLeod cover of 28 April 1847, the earliest known date.

## References

- 12 G. Kellow, "A Census of the Lady McLeod Stamp", in *W.I. Stamps & Postal History Review*, no. 30, October 1992 and subsequent.
- 13 All the covers are addressed to the firm of Taylor in business in San Fernando and to the Graham firm in Port of Spain, while perhaps only two or three are addressed to other recipients. The ones addressed to San Fernando are fewer in number. An examination of the first pages of the letters persuades one that the addressees are two quite distinct people, whereas Bacon creates some confusion here. E. Bacon and others, *The Postage stamps, Envelopes, Wrappers. Post Cards, and Telegraph Stamps, of the British Colonies in the West Indies. Together with British Honduras and The Colonies in South America*, published by "The Philatelic Society", London 1891, p. 143. (The whole volume is Bacon's work with the exception of the chapter on Bermuda, by E. Evans, and the chapters on the Falklands and Montserrat).
- 14 According to Kellow, *op. cit*, the last known cover is dated 21 August 1849.

In fact the text of the letter <sup>15</sup> itself suggests that the stamp was printed in sheets of 50, not least for ease of reckoning. That the “Lady McLeod” was engraved and printed by the same Charles Pétit who a few years later was entrusted with preparing the lithographed provisional issue, one may infer from certain considerations.

We have an accurate description <sup>16</sup> of the two lithographic plates that Pétit <sup>17</sup> used in his magisterial printing of the provisional stamps. One had a single stamp designed in light relief, the other, measuring 22.5cm x 19cm (8¾in x 7½in), had 54 stamps engraved in six rows of nine. These stamps measured almost exactly 19mm x 22mm and, allowing for the space between the stamps of about 2mm, the sheet must have measured about 19cm x 14cm. The “Lady McLeod” measured only a single millimetre more in height so the guessed-at sheet must have measured 20cm x 14cm leaving exactly one centimetre of border at one side and two at the other side of the lithographic stone. The preciseness of these figures persuades me that the sheet of the “Lady McLeod” was composed of 50 stamps. The measurements turn out to be right and exact when considered in centimetres, as would have been logical for a French engraver like Pétit to use in his work.

As for the cancellations in pen <sup>18</sup> a taxonomy based on the ink has been suggested that would make it possible to work out a typology for the precise chronological context <sup>19</sup>. Four methods seem to have been used: eight small strokes (the rarest method, found only on the cover discussed earlier), two strong cross strokes, two cross strokes in faded ink, two almost invisible cross strokes.

It should be stressed that some of the stamps catalogued as unused have almost certainly been removed from covers and that the cancellations in pen (of the faded ink type) have in these cases been made to disappear.

A further consideration needs to be added for the collector: one may wonder how it comes about that the “Lady McLeod”, a stamp never officially issued, though indicated in all the catalogues as the Trinidad No.1, fetches such decidedly high prices on the international market <sup>20</sup>. Other stamps of the same kind - lacking its

## References

- 15 “... You must buy some of Bryces stamps at \$4 per hundred, or else we must pay a bit for each of your letters.” A bit was worth five cents, equivalent to 2½ pence. All those, however, who made large use of the service were charged twopence.
- 16 *Postage Stamps. op. cit.*, p. 148.
- 17 Chades Pétit was born in Bordeaux and had to leave France with his father who had lost all his property during the revolution of 1831. He worked in Surinam, Barbados and in Venezuela and stayed in Trinidad for just two years, leaving the island for New York in September 1853. He died however at sea on the voyage. Bacon, *op. cit.*, p. 148.
- 18 The “Lady McLeod” was always cancelled with pen strokes or, more rarely, with a portion of the surface skinned off.
- 19 G. Chiavarello, “Le emissioni di francobolli privati delle compagnie di navigazione del secolo XIX”, in *Nuovo Corriere Fielitico*, pp. 332-334.

undeniable charm, however, issued by other private sailing companies, such as those of St Lucia or the 10 cents of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company<sup>21</sup>, are not so highly prized. The magnificent design with its particularly precise drawing, its primitiveness, the fact that it dates from the first decade of philately and that it was printed locally, are not enough to explain why it is so sought-after. Perhaps it is the fact that the number of examples to survive is neither too large to have brought down the price nor too small to have made it unfindable, that has created a situation where the number of collectors eager for it is always higher than the number of examples on the market.

There is one thing still to be clarified. As we have seen, the covers show that the letters were addressed in part to the Taylor firm in San Fernando and in part to the firm of Graham in Port of Spain. On the covers addressed to Port of Spain the name of the addressee is penned in a particular way. The word Messers and the name Graham are easily identified, while the two remaining words are unclear. In his book of 1891 Bacon mentions Taylor only to name him a few lines later as Mr James Graham Taylor. Marriott also considers there to be only one person in question<sup>22</sup>. Calligraphic examination of the covers addressed to Graham show that the surname "Taylor" does not appear. Taylor and Graham thus turn out to have been two quite distinct people<sup>23</sup>.

Now let us come to the first postage stamps, those produced by Perkins & Bacon in 1848 and in use till 1859, which had a troubled life and suffered mishaps of all kinds.

## References

- 20 When the stamp was first described in a philatelic magazine in 1867 it was judged to be a bogus. Only after the Philatelic Society's publication in 1891 of *Postage Stamps of the British Colonies in the West Indies*, *op. cit.* in which appeared as no. 278 in one of the photographic plates, was it given credence. In an auction of the same year an example reached the handsome sum of £14, more or less the price it held up to 1915. In 1950 it was estimated at £100 and today the catalogue price for a used example is £7,000.
- 21 The St Luda Steam Conveyance Co. issued in 1869 (?) a primitive stamp in the form of a medicine-bottle label, made official by the Company's rubber-stamp and cancelled with an ink cross. Only five or six loose exemplars are known and one on cover. The definitive issue, of 1873 perhaps, consisted of a 1 penny stamp, twelve known exemplars, and a 6 penny stamp, six or seven known. The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company issued a ten cent stamp in the '70s. The loose stamps are quite common, but on cover only two or three are known.
- 22 Marriott, *op. cit.*, p. 14: "J. Graham Taylor was a collector resident in Trinidad..."
- 23 Bacon, *op. cit.* p. 151 states: "With regard to what I said about the "Lady McLeod" local, Mr. Taylor writes as follows: "The owner of the steamer used to carry letters at ten cents or five pence each, and as the people were in the habit of sending large pieces of money to pay, the captain used to be at his wits end to scratch up the small change so the expedient of the stamp was adapted, and I still have the letter where *one of the former partners of my business, writing to the other at San Fernando*, advises him to buy some of Bryce's stamps. Mr. Taylor has since shown me the letter he refers to..." (fig.2).

*(This Article will be continued in the next Bulletin)*

## LEAMINGTON CONVENTION

A reminder to you that the Study Circle Convention is coming round again, and this year it will be taking place on Friday, 6th and Saturday, 7th October at The Regent Hotel, Royal Leamington Spa.

On the last occasion in October 1993, your Committee decided to try out a wine and cheese party on the Friday evening instead of a sherry party.

It proved to be a tremendous success; people mixed and new friends were made and the Convention got off to a flying start. I hope that you will enjoy our next wine and cheese party as much as I did on the last occasion: it is something I am looking forward to.

The Convention Day is on Saturday 7th when things start to get really busy. During the morning there will be informal displays by many members who are asked to bring up to thirty pages from their collections. Then there is the Bourse at which a number of dealers will be taking tables.

One dealer is so keen that he requested a table at the end of last April. The Members' Approval table will also be in action and you will be able to buy from other members through this channel.

John O. Griffiths will be giving a Formal Display before the Luncheon interval. His collection has not previously been fully displayed in the United Kingdom and it will be a privilege to see it.

The Buffet Style Luncheon is an innovation which your Committee think will prove to be popular: it will enable members to move around and talk to whoever they wish.

This will be followed by Geoffrey A. Osborn's formal display which has taken many years to form.

During the Saturday afternoon there will be further informal displays by members so please bring up to thirty pages as they will add to the diversity of the material on display. The Bourse and Members' Approval table will be in action at the same time as the informal displays so that there will be much for you to look at during the Convention Day which will officially end at 17.15 hours.

I look forward to meeting those of you who can attend the week-end which is fast approaching.

Victor Toeg

Advert

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